

**From:** Mr. Alcourt  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

As a systems administrator I have followed the news on the anti-trust lawsuit against Microsoft with interest. I have been quite dismayed over the proposed settlement which amounts to little more than a political surrender. Microsoft is not having any remedy placed upon it that will have any real impact to prevent further monopoly abuses or even help remedy the abuse that they were found to have committed.

Despite the fact that the breakup of Microsoft was overturned on appeal, the basic findings of fact were upheld, that Microsoft did illegally use their monopoly power to dominate the web browser market.

Historically, Microsoft has a long history of monopoly abuses. They are known as the "800 pound gorilla" in the IT world, not by strength of their software, but by strength of their monopoly.

The proposed settlement is even more troubling because Microsoft is one of the worst examples of software quality in the market today. They have helped lower the standard in software quality to the point that it is now expected that commercial software be delivered at best only partially usable, and completely unable to be used for even 24 hours without significant problems (similarly to how Windows 3.1 could not be used for such a period of time without problems.)

This settlement does nothing to discourage Microsoft from abusing their monopoly power, and in fact, encourages them to be even more aggressive, knowing that what bears all appearance of a politically ordered settlement will be the dominant rule for dealings with Microsoft for at least the next five years.

I urge you to abandon this proposed settlement and instead seek a solution to the problem of the Microsoft monopoly that does not involve giving Microsoft everything they offered months ago prior to them being found a monopoly that violated anti-trust law.

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Mr. Alcourt <http://www.execpc.com/~alcourt/>  
"I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend unto the death  
your right to say it." -- Voltaire